IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image of a first object using images obtained of said first object, the method including the steps of;

(i) obtaining a plurality of images of a first object from multiple positions about a substantially horizontal plane;[[, and]]

(ii) creating foreground and background layers of the first object within said image;[[, and]]

(iii) forming a 3-dimensional image of said first object from the images obtained;[[,]] and

(iv) converting said 3-dimensional image obtained into a desirable format for compositing purposes.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 2, ~~where~~ wherein the first object is a hair style prepared on a model head.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 or~~ claim 2, wherein background layer image content is extrapolated using a reflected copy of an opposed image.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 or 3~~, wherein the creation of foreground and background layers is completed through executing the steps of:[[;]]

(a) cropping the hair out of each image;[[, and]]

(b) loading the cropped hair images into an alignment process;[[,]] and

(c) defining foreground and background hair layers within each image.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4, wherein said method of creating foreground and background layers includes the following subsequent step of:[[;]]

(d) animating said plurality of images to identify alignment inconsistencies between images.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4 ~~any one of claims 4 or 5~~, wherein hair layers are defined by following perspective lines in the hair style.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4 ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~, wherein the hair style to be represented is feathered to obtain a smooth transition between the layers defined.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 1 ~~any previous claim~~, wherein an alpha-blending process is

is applied to a foreground layer of an image.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 1 ~~any previous claim~~, wherein the images converted into a format desirable for compositing are stored in an electronic file format which stores a plurality of sequential images from a common layer within a single file.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 9, wherein the file format selected stores uncompressed pixel data.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 9 ~~claims 9 or 10~~, wherein a file is stored for each layer present in the 3- dimensional image of the first object.

Claims 12-17 Canceled.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of compositing multiple images to form an approximation of a 3- dimensional image, said method being characterized by the execution of the steps of:[[;]]

a. obtaining a 3-dimensional image of a first object converted into a desirable format; ~~as claimed in claim 1, and~~

b. obtaining a 3-dimensional image of a second object, the second object including a face; ~~in a desirable format as claimed in claim 14,~~ and

c. combining each of the corresponding pixels of the images of the first and second objects.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 18, wherein the resulting composite 3-dimensional image is delivered to a remote user using a client software application via a computer network and a server software application.

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 18 ~~any one of claims 18 or 19~~, wherein the composite 3-dimensional image is generated by a server software application and transmitted to a remote client software application.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 19 ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the steps of;

a. retrieving a 3-dimensional image of a hair style ~~as claimed in claim 2~~, and retrieving a 3-dimensional image of a face ~~as claimed in claim 14~~;

b. taking an initial pixel from the foreground hair layer image, an initial corresponding pixel from a face image and an initial corresponding pixel from a background hair layer image and combining them; and

c. repeating step b. for all subsequent pixels of the corresponding image of the hair style and the corresponding image of the face.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 21, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the steps of:[[;]]

d. compressing the resultant composite image and transmitting it to a user;[[,]]

user;[[,]] and

e. repeating steps b. to d. for all subsequent images of the hair style and the face.

23. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 21, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the further subsequent steps of:[[;]]

d. storing of the resultant composite image for compilation into an animated format;[[,]] and

e. repeating steps b. to d. for all subsequent images of the hair style and the face.

24. Canceled.

25. Canceled.